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54/07/08 Bay Doctor Talks To Reporter

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CLEVELAND — Partly
cloudy, cool today. Fair, cool
tonight. High today 75, low
tonight 55.
See Page 16.

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BAY DOCTOR TALKS TO REPORTER

VOWS CO-OPERATION; SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES WAIT OUTSIDE ROOM

'I'm Not in Shape' for Investigators, Dr. Sheppard Says; Rossbach, Directing Probe, Told to Call Today; Lawyer, Otto Graham and Mayor Houk Later Visit Patient

BY JOHN G. BLAIR

Sheriff's deputies cooled their heels outside Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard's Bay View Hospital room last night, stymied in attempts to question the injured surgeon.

But a few minutes before this Plain Dealer reporter talked to the husband of the Bay Village hack-murder victim as he lay in his hospital bed.

Accompanied by Dudley Brumbach, Plain Dealer photographer, the reporter was admitted to the darkened room soon after Dr. Sheppard had returned from his wife's funeral.

Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, a brother, had obtained Dr. Sheppard's consent to a photograph and stood by as the reporter talked with the beaten husband.

"Heavens, yes," Dr. Sheppard said to the reporter through his swollen lips. His neck was encased in a leather brace.

Pledges Co-Operation

He had been asked if he would co-operate in the investigation of the killing of his comely wife, whose head and face were savagely chopped 25 times in the bedroom of their comfortable Bay Village home.

"I will co-operate with the investigation in every way," he added.

Again he replied: "Heavens, yes," to the observation by the reporter that everyone hoped the sadistic slayer would be apprehended.

"Do you feel well enough to be questioned?" Dr. Sheppard was asked.

"Not in Shape Yet"

"My doctors tell me that I'm not in shape yet," he replied.

He added that he felt "awful."

The doctor held his forehead. He had complained of a severe headache after returning to the hospital from the emotional ordeal of saying his final farewell to his wife.

Dr. Sheppard added that he had talked to Bay Village Police Sergt. Jay Hubach en route to Knollwood Mausoleum.

"I talked to him all the way over and back," the doctor said, raising one of his legs and turning slightly on the bed.

Rules Out Rossbach

The brother said Dr. Sheppard had received no sedative up to that time.

An hour later Deputy Sheriff Carl A. Rossbach, directing the slowed-down investigation of the murder that has terrorized the quiet suburb, reported Dr. Sheppard was under sedation and could not be questioned.

He said that he had hoped to interview the doctor, but that Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard, the brother in charge of medical care for the surgeon, had ruled this out.

"He said his brother was under great emotional stress and had been given a sedative," Rossbach said as he entered his car in the hospital parking lot with Deputy Sheriff Dave Yettra and Bay Village Patrolman Fred Drenkhan.

"I was told to call Dr. Stephen Sheppard tomorrow at 11 a. m. to learn if we can question him," Rossbach added.

Rossbach said he had been given "permission" to talk to the Sheppards' 6½-year-old son, "Chip," today.

Chip has been staying at the home of Dr. Stephen Sheppard,

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Doctor Talks to Reporter; Deputy Sheriffs Are Barred

(Continued From First Page)

19027 Englewood Drive, Rocky River.

Roszbach said the family had asked that Patrolman Drenkhan do the questioning, since Chip knew him as a friend.

Dr. Samuel R. Gerber, county coroner, said he had not asked that Dr. Oscar B. Markey, Juvenile Court psychiatrist, aid in questioning Chip.

Lawyer Returns

Asked if counsel for Dr. Sheppard would be present "if and when" Roszbach questions the injured doctor, the deputy said: "I told them I didn't need an audience when I was talking to Dr. Sheppard."

Nevertheless, a few hours later last night, William J. Corrigan, noted Cleveland criminal lawyer, paid his second visit to the hospital.

Met by Plain Dealer Reporter Pat Garling outside the hospital, Corrigan would only admit seeing Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, father of the injured doctor.

However, it was learned that Corrigan, with Arthur E. Petersilge, Sheppard family lawyer, had conferred for an hour with the injured doctor in his room. The lawyers were there from 7:15 to 8:15 p. m. with Dr. Stephen Sheppard.

Graham Is Visitor

A virtual parade of visitors trekked in and out of the room after the investigators were denied entrance.

Among these was Otto Graham, Cleveland Browns star quarterback, and Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay Village. Other visitors were the elder Dr. Sheppard and his wife, parents of the injured physician.

Graham explained that he wanted to see Dr. Sheppard before going out of town.

Asked if he planned to be present when Dr. Sheppard is

questioned, Corrigan replied: "No comment."

Corrigan first entered the case Monday.

Since then, efforts by Dr. Gerber and other investigators to talk to Dr. Sheppard have been balked.

Dr. Gerber, accompanied by Assistant County Prosecutors John J. Mahon and Thomas J. Parrino, visited the Sheppard home, 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village, in the afternoon.

Mahon and Parrino were shown through the rambling house overlooking Lake Erie. Mahon paid particular attention to the basement. He and Parrino joined in the search for the missing murder weapon.

Also still missing, and continually growing in importance according to investigators, is the T-shirt worn by Dr. Sheppard Saturday night.

Confers With Professor

When he was found stunned on the living room floor Sunday at dawn the T-shirt was missing. It has not been traced in numerous searches of the house and property.

Dr. Gerber came to the home after conferring at the hospital with Dr. Charles W. Elkins, assistant professor of neurosurgery at the Western Reserve University medical school. They studied X-ray plates taken of Dr. Sheppard's neck.

The coroner said two of the plates showed no defect in Dr. Sheppard's vertebrae, while a third plate "shows a defect."

But Dr. Sheppard's neck was not broken as had been reported earlier, the coroner said.

Gerber said he would not attempt to question Dr. Sheppard until at least today.

Calls for Questioning

After looking over the house, Mahon said he had advised Dr. Gerber to hold a coroner's inquest and subpoena Dr. Sheppard to testify under oath if efforts to question him continued to be futile.

A similar threat of a public hearing was given by Dr. Gerber to the Sheppard family at a conference Tuesday night at the Bay Village City Hall.

Veteran homicide officers said they could not remember similar delays in other murder investigations.

"While the county hesitates to learn the facts, the trail is getting colder by the minute," one told the Plain Dealer.

Another pointed out that four-year-old Kenny Broyles, who was kidnaped two months ago, was questioned the same day he was found near death on railroad tracks on the city's West Side.

Pipe Is Found

Dr. Gerber said the county was unable to check on a palm print left on the rifled desk in the Sheppard living room.

"It could be the doctor's," he said, "but we don't even have his palm print to compare it with."

In the afternoon Patrolman Cy Lipaj found a four-foot length of 3/4-inch galvanized pipe lying on the beach 100 feet west of the Sheppard home. The pipe was to be subjected to tests to see if it could be the murder weapon.

Search Is Delayed

Rough water prevented further search of Lake Erie behind the house in an effort to locate the murder weapon. Police were considering hiring a diver.

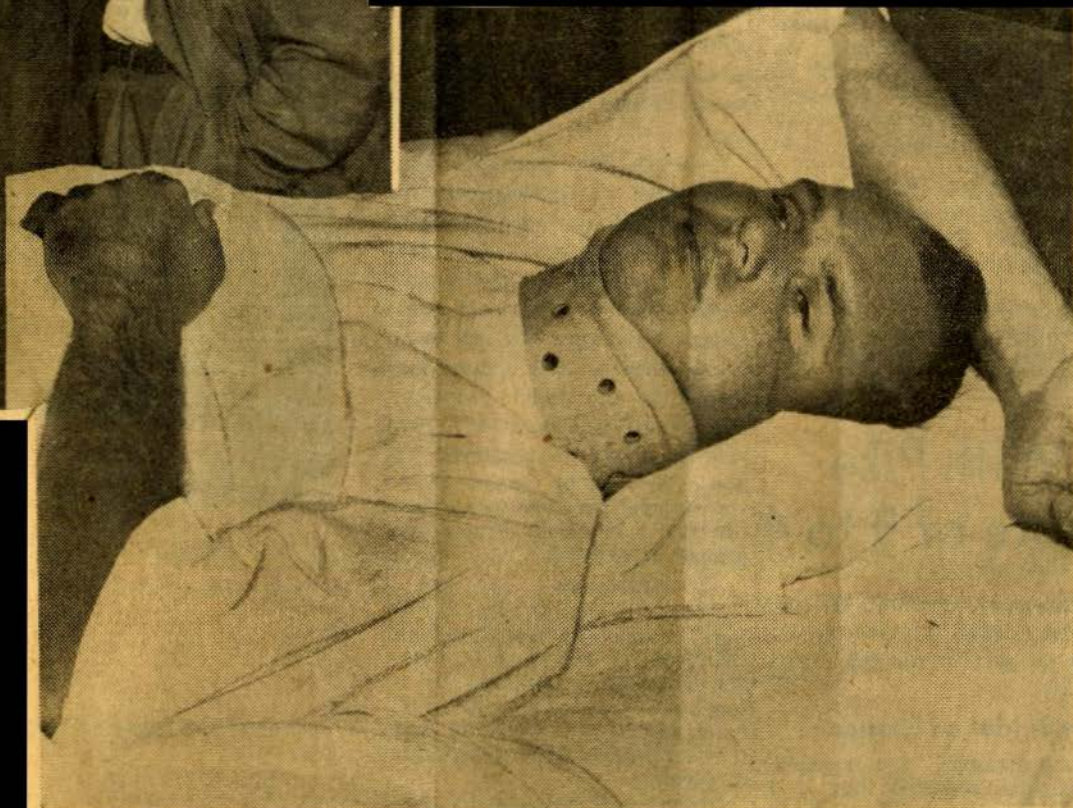
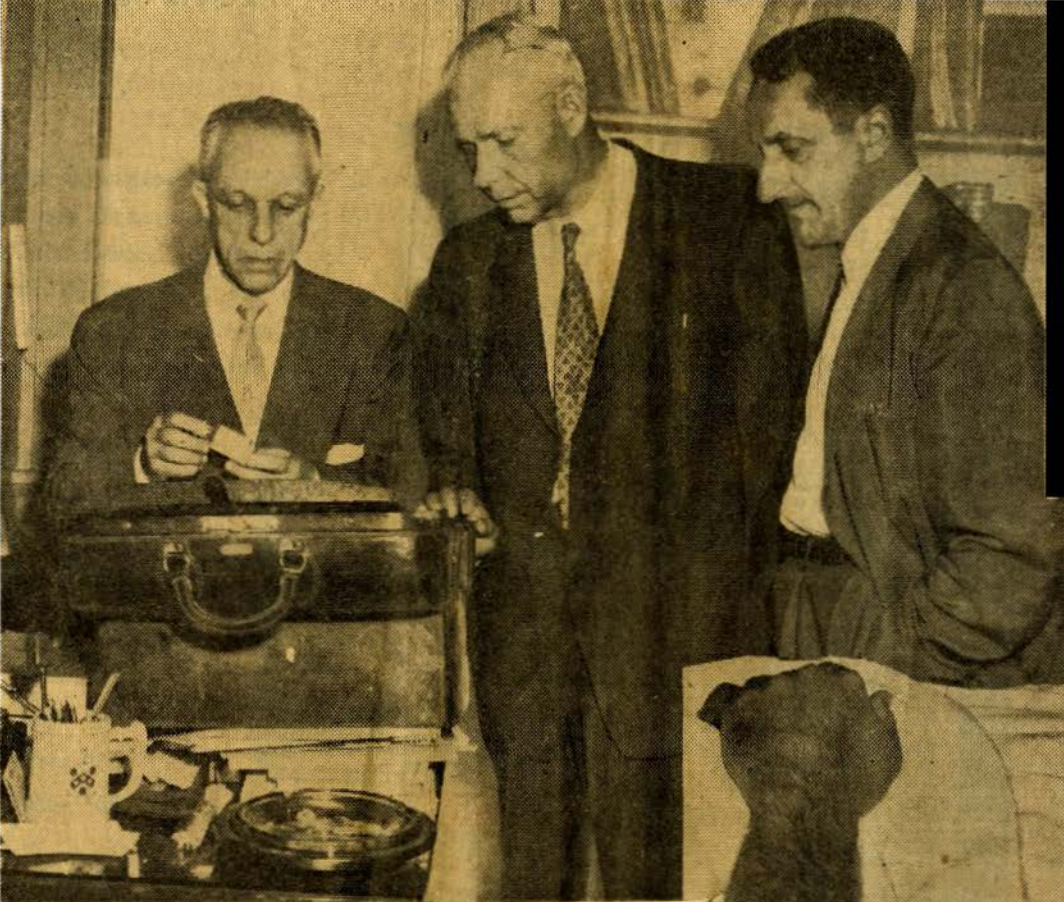
Two pair of gloves were turned over to Dr. Gerber. Chief Eaton found these Tuesday beneath the platform of the Sheppard beach house.

A canvas pair bore stains, but these resembled paint or rust rather than blood. Nevertheless, Dr. Gerber said tests would be made.

"Inorganic material" found on the floor near the bed on which the 31-year-old Mrs. Sheppard's battered body lay proved to be a chip of toenail polish, apparently from the victim, and a piece of leatherette or leather, Dr. Gerber said.

Dr. Gerber also said Dr. Sheppard's trousers had blood stains on them. Whose blood, Dr. Gerber could not say since he does not have samples of the doctor's.

Blood was also on the wristwatches belonging to the victim and Dr. Sheppard, Gerber added.



Plain Dealer Photos by Dudley Brumbach

DR. SAMUEL H. SHEPPARD, shown in his Bay View Hospital bed, talked to a Plain Dealer reporter yesterday, al-

though sheriffs deputies were not permitted to question him. Left: Dr. Samuel R. Gerber (left) shows Assistant County Prosecutors John J. Mahon

(middle) and Thomas J. Parrino, contents of Dr. Sheppard's medicine bag at the Sheppard residence in Bay Village.